

Explore the Election!

U.S. Invites Egyptian University Students to Compete for Chance to Observe American Elections

The United States Embassy in Cairo is pleased to invite Egyptian undergraduate students to participate in a competition for a chance to visit the US and observe American presidential elections. To participate, students must submit an application package described in detail below.

The deadline for submitting an application is August 9, 2012 at 4 PM.

Learn more about the U.S. presidential elections with activities in Egypt and the U.S. in the “Explore the Election!” program during the 2012 campaign season. This initiative aims to attract a diverse group of student leaders who will use their creative ideas and excellent leadership potential to explore the U.S. presidential elections with their colleagues.

Egyptian undergraduate students are asked to submit proposals for Egypt-based programs that will teach their peers about U.S. elections. All activities should take place in September. The best and most creative proposals will be selected and their organizers will win the chance to conduct elections education activities across Egypt in September. The six students who conduct the most original, creative and effective outreach programs on the U.S. elections will win an all-expenses paid educational tour to observe the final week of the U.S. presidential campaign and election day. Those six students will then return to Egypt to talk about their observations with their peers.

How to Apply: Students interested in applying should submit a three-step proposal:

Step #1 (August-September program) must include:

- 1- Detailed program you plan to implement among your peers to explain the U.S. presidential election. An ideal program would focus on a specific topic of the U.S. presidential elections and discuss the comparative benefits and drawbacks of applying to other democratic models.
- 2- The program must be conducted between August 23 and September 13, 2012. The proposal must identify the place and intended target audience you plan to reach.
- 3- Copy of applicant's valid passport.
- 4- Copy of resume.

Step #2 (U.S. Elections Observation) must include:

- 1- Your detailed plan to use social media postings, photos and videos to document the U.S. presidential campaigns and election day in the U.S. so that your peers can follow along in Egypt.

Step # 3 (Post-election program) must include:

- 1- Detailed program you plan to implement among your peers upon your return. Program should focus on how the newly elected president plans to address a specific campaign process, including discussion of other branches of government, society and media.
- 2- The program must be conducted between November 20 and December 20, 2012. The proposal must identify the place and intended target audience you plan to reach.

- Proposal form is attached.
 - Applicants are urged to work with the Embassy library to research their topics and seek guidance on program planning and elections resources.
 - Applicants should submit their full proposal by email to cairoculture@state.gov. The email should be titled: "Explore the Election Program".
- Deadline for proposals: August 9, 2012 at 4:00 PM

Program Details:

- On August 16, 2012, embassy staff will select and notify 30 students with the best, most creative U.S. elections outreach ideas.
- During the period August 23 to September 13, 2012, these 30 students will compete to produce the most highly attended and effective educational program on the U.S. election process and political environment.
- On September 17, 2012, embassy staff will select the top 15 students to participate in a September 23, 2012 "Explore the Election" fair in Cairo, complete with a large student, general public and media audience to review their presentations.
- The best six presentations in the fair will be selected to participate in a week of U.S. presidential campaigns and election observations from October 31-November 7.
- From November 20 to December 20, 2012 the participants in the exchange will present their findings and discuss with their peers the implementation of the president-elect's campaign promises.
- On December 20, 2012, students who have successfully completed the three steps will receive a certificate of completion at a special ceremony in Cairo.

Eligibility Criteria

All candidates must:

- Be Egyptian citizens living in Egypt with a valid passport. No U.S. passport holders are allowed.
- Be currently enrolled and in good standing in an Egyptian university.
- Have at least one semester remaining in his/her university studies.
- Be committed to returning home to complete his/her degree in fall 2012.
- 18 to 25 years old.
- Proficient in English.
- Be mature, responsible, independent, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive with strong interest in the United States politics and a high level of academic achievement.
- Candidates should also demonstrate strong leadership potential, a commitment to community and extracurricular activities.
- Have no prior travel experience in the United States.

- Any questions may be directed to Hanan Asaad at 02-2797-3849 or asaadhr@state.gov

Explore the Election Program

Action – Proposal Requests

1- YOUR NAME:

2- CONTACT INFORMATION:

a- Mobile telephone:

b- Home telephone:

c- Current e-mail address:

d- Permanent mailing address:

3- ACADEMIC INFORMATION:

a- University Name:

b- Faculty/School Year:

4- AUGUST-SEPTEMBER PROGRAM:

a- The detailed program with timeline:

b- Place of the program:

c- Target Audience:

d- Detailed budget (if applicable):

5- U.S. ELECTIONS OBSERVATION PROGRAM:

a- The detailed plan:

6- POST-ELECTION PROGRAM:

a- The detailed program with timeline:

b- Place of the program:

c- Target Audience:

d- Detailed budget (if applicable):